

previous to his death. In subsequent actions he would have had a company of his own. He was one of those rare men in whom we all place implicit confidence, and whose best effort is always to be counted on. That his platoon carried on without him through the thickest of the melee, as sticky a spot as troops ever encountered, redounds to his everlasting credit. It was his training, his force, his spirit, that carried them through. He did his part fully and wholly, without a selfish thought and it is such as this that has brought victory and peace to civilization and pray God we may keep it. But not at a price. There are some things that cannot be bartered with, and the Boche spirit is one of them. Bascom and those who have gone West with him will not let us forget. Their sense of values is just and high, and they have given without stint.

I am sorry that I cannot comply with all your request. We have no pictures or means here of taking photos. Letters from those here will accompany this. Lt. Stroups, who was Bascom's most intimate and close friend will at a later time gather what he can together for you.

My association with your brother has been a source of great pleasure and satisfaction. As an Officer he was splendid, as a friend he was one indeed. His work with the regiment before leaving the States you know. He joined us on this side, after completing a special training course in the A. E. F. Engineer Schools. He did most valuable work with the Company when it had its first training and experience in front line work about Ypres, Belgium. He did excellent work as liaison officer with the II British Army Corps when our division operated in the famous Canal Sector, between Mt. Remmel and Ypres. He also served in the line with the company there, doing specially fine work at the battle of Woormezeele. Again during a rest and training period while we were in Reserves behind Arras, he did invaluable work with the company and particularly with his platoon. Then we stepped into the attack that broke the Hindenburg line at the Bellicourt Tunnel. He organized his men, carried them forward, kept them in spirit under most trying conditions in the shell torn quarries of Templeaux La Fosse. During the black and hard night of